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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 07 PARIS 001568

SIPDIS

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TAGS PREL, PINR, ECON, MARR, PHUM, XA, FR  
SUBJECT: FRANCE'S CHANGING AFRICA POLICY: PART II (FRENCH  
IMPLEMENTATION AND AFRICAN REACTIONS)

REF: PARIS 1501

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor Kathleen Allegrone, 1.4 (b/ d).

1. (C) SUMMARY: France's new Africa policy has received mixed reviews from Africans uncertain as France moves away from the "France-Afrique" n  
END SUMMARY.

2. (C) Reftel describes "France-Afrique," the model that dominated France's Africa policy for most of the 20th century. Believing that globali  
Pre-Election Image Problems  
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3. (C) Sarkozy's new Africa policy may have been a disquieting change in course for Africans, yet not a surprise to them. Many Africans were w  
Immigration and Africa  
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4. (C) Sarkozy compounded these concerns during a visit to Mali and Benin in May 2006 as Interior Minister. Shortly before the trip, he had pr  
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themselves. The normal functioning of institutions should prevail over the officious networks that have produced so much that is bad." Africans

5. (C) Immigration remains an important sub-theme to Sarkozy's Africa policy, and is one of the hottest of hot-button issues in France. Advocs

6. (C) Upon becoming President, Sarkozy installed close associate Brice Hortefeux as Minister of Immigration, Integration, National Identity,

7. (C) Sarkozy and Hortefeux have emphasized the benefits that a reformed immigration policy would provide Africans. The French have concluded

8. (C) Some Africans have disapproved of another part of Sarkozy's immigration policy -- the program to test DNA to verify kinship as a basis

9. (C) The DNA testing program appears to be going forward. In June 2008, Hortefeux announced during a visit to Cape Verde that France would  
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the program in the September 2008 timeframe. Cape Verde authorities reportedly responded that they "took note of this demarche of consultation"

Dakar, July 2007  
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10. (C) With his stints at Interior, his provocative remarks, and the outline of this new immigration policy as backdrops, Sarkozy went to Dak

11. (C) In the Dakar speech, Sarkozy said: "I did not come to erase the past, which can't be erased. I did not come to deny either the faults

12. (C) Sarkozy said that the colonist "took but I want to say with respect that he also gave. He constructed bridges, roads, hospitals, dispe

13. (C) Many African critics viewed the speech as condescending and paternalistic, two aspects of France-Afrique Sarkozy said he wanted to bar  
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especially demeaning: "The drama of Africa is that the African man has not entered enough into history. The African peasant, for millennia, liv

14. (C) South Africa President Mbeki, one of the few African leaders to react favorably, reportedly wrote to Sarkozy: "What you have said in I  
Reining Him In and Slowing Him Down  
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15. (C) After Dakar, Sarkozy went to Gabon, where elder statesman and France-Afrique supporter President Bongo received him with full honors.

16. (C) Sarkozy has in other ways shown himself to be out of step, with his bedside manner needing fine-tuning. Presidential Advisor Remi Mare

17. (C) Sarkozy does not like to waste time and likes to get to the point, perhaps to excess. When President Obiang of Equatorial Guinea met w

18. (C) Flush with his early success at helping liberate Bulgarian medical workers long detained in Libya on dubious  
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charges, Sarkozy decided to intervene personally in Chad after the Zoe's Ark effort to smuggle supposed Darfur orphans to France was discovered

Bongo Up, Bockel Down, France-Afrique Still Kicking  
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19. (C) Jean-Marie Bockel became State Secretary for Cooperation and Francophonie (reporting to the Foreign Minister) when Sarkozy took office

20. (C) Continuing, Bockel said that ineffectiveness prevailed because "bad governance, the wastage of public finds, the carelessness of certa

21. (C) Bockel's comments did not sit well with some Africans, notably Gabon President Bongo. A slow-moving French judicial investigation of t

22. (C) Relations took a turn for the worse when, early in March 2008, France expelled two Gabonese for apparent visa/residency problems. Gabc

23. (C) And then the noise suddenly stopped, after the March 18 announcement that Bockel would no longer be Secretary of State for Cooperation  
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Bockel issued a "no regrets about anything I said" statement, as he trundled off to his new job as Secretary of State for Veterans Affairs.

24. (C) The Bockel case is significant because it shows that "killing" France-Afrique is easier said than done; that France-Afrique has a life  
Wins, Losses, Draws, and ???  
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25. (C) Sarkozy indicated that implementation of his new policy would take place on a clean slate, that he would not be a prisoner of the past  
-- ANGOLA: Relations were long frozen because of the Falcone Affair, the complex arms trafficking case that dates to the Mitterrand and Chirac

-- RWANDA: Relations, precarious even before the 1994 genocide, collapsed in November 2006 when then-anti terrorism Judge Bruguiere issued an i

-- DJIBOUTI: The Borrel Affair, involving the 1995 death of French judge Bernard Borrel, who was working on assignment in Djibouti when he comm  
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-- DJIBOUTI (cont,d): Despite periodic upheavals, the two sides managed to isolate the case until the convictions, which took place a few weeks

-- MADAGASCAR: To these wins, losses, and draws, one must add an abject "surrender" -- Sarkozy's agreeing to Madagascar President Ravalomanana'

One Year Later

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¶26. (C) Over a year into Sarkozy's five-year term, his Africa policy has yielded positive results for both French and Africans but has not bee

¶27. (C) Nonetheless, the energy that Sarkozy is imparting stands in favorable contrast to the stagnation characterizing Africa policy during C

¶28. (C) Part III, the final segment of this series (septel), will explore other aspects of France's implementation of its new Africa policy, f  
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